3-17-10

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Delectable delights and savory sauces. Valley Life

What you need to know about earthquakes. Special Report

los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

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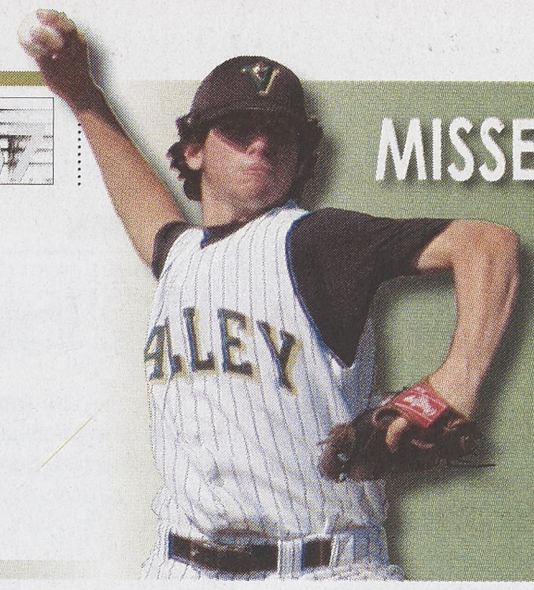

MISSED OPORTUNITIES

Monarchs beat themselves in a 5-4 loss against Pierce College.

»7

Sixth Straight Continuance for Torquato

The associate professor will return to court March 19 following charges.

JOSH SPENCE
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Valley College Associate Professor Richard Torquato will reappear in court on Friday, March 19 after receiving a sixth consecutive continuance on Monday.

Torquato has been on leave since charges were brought against him in the Fall 2009 semester pertaining to sexual harassment.

When the Valley Star asked John Friedman, Torquato's private counsel, for a comment regarding the string of continuances, Friedman stated,"No comment."

When asked if he can confirm or deny if a continuance even occurred on Monday, Friedman stated, "I only comment on cases if the client asks me to do so, even then I advise them not to do so."

Due to protocol, details regarding the incident and statements from litigating parties are scarce until the investigation regarding Torquato is closed and a judgment has been made.

A continuance is defined as a postponement of any scheduled court proceeding either by the judge or the parties in dispute. Requests for continuance must be written and given to both the court and the opposing parties. Affidavits explaining the reason for the continuance are generally required with the formal request.

The charges brought against Torquato are violations of Penal Code 243.4(E)(1), which involves sexual battery, Penal Code 647.6(A)(1), which is defined as molestation of any child under 18 years of age, and 273A (B), a charge of willfully causing a child to suffer any physical pain or mental suffering.

Valley's Office of Compliance is also investigating the psychology professor.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo has stated, "We are working very hard to preserve the rights of everyone … we want to do right by everyone."

Torquato earned his bachelor's degree from Williamette University in Salem, OR and received a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He was hired at Valley in 1999.

FROM HAITI

THE AFTERMATH

ANGELA BEACH | VALLEY STAR

LIFE GOES ON

Two months after a 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti, life continues. While moments of joy can be seen in the streets of Haiti at times, the destruction and aftermath of the earthquake is still felt every day. Hundreds of thousands of people are still living in tents and makeshift shacks. People suffering from injuries are common sight, such as the man, left, who lost his leg.

Earthquake Wakes Residents

4.4 magnitude earthquake wakes residents early Tuesday morning.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake struck southern California at approximately 4 a.m. Tuesday, according to the U.S Geological survey.

The quake, classified as a "slight" earthquake, served more as a reminder to residents rather than a threat.

> **"I really don't know what the protocal is for the school in case of an earthquake."**
> - Mark Acosta

"My daughter was in bed, so I was trying to grab her," Valley Student Celina Vasquez said.

The quake was centered roughly one mile from Pico Rivera, Calif., according to ABC News. According to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, there were no immediate

|See **EARTHQUAKE**, Page 2|

STUDENT ALERT

Save Our Education

Attend the town hall event Wednesday, March 17, 2010 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Monarch Hall to show your support against fee hikes and funding cuts.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Dream Internship

Local music production company is welcoming students to an internship.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Haiti

Our photographer's exclusive images from Haiti.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

State Assembly Hopeful Speaks at Town Hall

Education advocate and 43rd District contender Nayiri Nahabedian will speak in the Valley College Monarch Hall at 1 p.m. today.

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

Nayiri Nahabedian, 43rd District State Assembly hopeful, will speak to students at the "Save Our Education" discussion held at 1 p.m. in Monarch Hall today.

Valley College's Political Action Committee is organizing the event and anticipates at least 250 students. Nahabedian arrives with the massive nationwide March 4 protests against education cuts still fresh in students' minds.

"The town hall discussion … will focus on the California state budget crisis." said the PAC in a press release Tuesday, " … and will provide an opportunity for Ms. Nahabedian to address student concerns and convey her plan for protecting education."

The PAC intends to ask Nahabedian to pledge her commitment to public education by promising to take a stance against further budget cuts before she is elected.

"… Nayiri will fight against further cuts to our education," said the Web site VoteNayiri.com, "… she will also fight to make sure that our UC, CSU, and community colleges will remain affordable to every Californian."

Students have already seen a 32 percent increase in tuition fees, and another 33 percent will be tacked on this year. Valley College will raise the cost per unit to $40. This will also come with the elimination of the Board of Governors fee waivers and additional reductions in the number of classes offered.

"The most recent fee increases and budget cuts have made it harder and harder for me to attend school," said PAC member Elizabeth Valldejuli, a political science major at Valley College. "I've already had to put off graduation for at least a year, and a lot of other students have even had to drop out of school."

Nahabedian is a board member of the Glendale Unified School District and education advocate. She is trying to fill the 43rd District's state assembly seat left vacant by democrat Paul Krekorian, who resigned in January to become part of Los Angeles City Council. The 43rd district encompasses the areas of Burbank, Glendale, and North Hollywood.

According to the Glendale News Press, Nahabedian proposed taxing oil drilling and other companies who receive "billion-dollar tax breaks" in California during a debate at the Glendale Public Library on March 7 between 43rd District contenders.

The article claimed, "Republican Sunder Ramani… argued that laws and regulations have tied the state's hands with funding mandates that are unrealistic, like Proposition 98, which guarantees about 40 percent of California's spending to public education."

After Nahabedian speaks in Monarch Hall a moderated forum will open up for students to ask questions.

STUDENT TRUSTEE IS A BUST

Valley College students are not represented at district board meetings.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAF WRITER

The deadline to apply for the student trustee position at the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees was March 1 and for the second year in a row no Valley College student applied for the position.

The student trustee generally has the same responsibilities as elected trustees. The trustee sits at all open board meetings, and is expected to make and second motions, as well as vote on them. The position pays 500 dollars a month for regular attendance at meetings and comes with an office.

"Even though it's an important job," said Elizabeth Ortiz, Associate Dean of Student Services. "Nobody seams to want to do it."

Last year only one person from the entire district applied, according to Ortiz who is unsure whether the lack of interest in position is due to student complacency or a lack of awareness.

"We maybe just haven't done a good job of advertising into class rooms," said Ortiz.

There is an advertisement posted on the campus website, and a packet containing details about the position can be found in the Associated Student Union office, but information is scarce beyond that.

"The student trustee is a very, very important position," said Jamoceo Black, former ASU Vice President, who ran for trustee two years ago. "They are able to communicate with the district and make sure our needs are met abroad."

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a least six units at any of the schools in the district and be in good academic standing. The term of a trustee lasts one year and in addition to being an active member of the board, the student representative chairs the Student Affairs Committee, which serves as the representative opinion and voice of the students to the Board of Trustees.

It remains to be seen if the position will be filled by a student from the other colleges in the district.

THE LOW DOWN

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The 14th Amendment is under a microscope in the hot button debate over same-sex marriage.

CRISTINA SERRATO

Americans fall on every end of the spectrum in the ongoing debate over same-sex marriage, but for some, same-sex marriage isn't a matter of right or wrong, just a constitutional injustice that needs to be corrected.

"They should be allowed to get married. It doesn't matter if someone doesn't like something, you should do what you feel," commented Fransisco Lima, art major at Valley.

Many gay rights and same-sex marriage proponents feel that homosexuals are consistently overlooked and denied their constitutional rights as Americans, as same-sex marriage is still outlawed in many states. Currently New Hampshire, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts and Vermont, the Coquille Indian Tribe in Oregon and one district in Washington, D.C allow same-sex marriage. Washington, D.C.'s same-sex marriage law went into effect March 3, which allowed the 151 couples lined up at the D.C. Superior Court to finally get their marriage licenses. Although more states don't currently give mar-

|See **COLUMN**, Page 2|

Valley Made the Cut on U.S. President's Honor Roll

Valley's Service Learning Program is recognized for its community involvement.

GUADALUPE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Last month, the Corporation for National and Community Service named Valley College to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second consecutive year, recognizing Valley's Service Learning Program. The Honor Roll is the highest level of federal government recognition for service and civic engagement on campus and in the nation.

"It's an honor," said ServiceLearning Program director Richard Brossman, associate professor of counseling. Although no monetary award is rendered, "It is a very significant award with the whole idea of civil commitment," Brossman said. He believes that since Valley is a community college, it should be involved in the community.

The Service Learning Program integrates community service, done by students, into the curriculum through structured learning activities. Many instructors give extra credit to students who participate in the program.

The program connects students with more than 100 social service, art, environmental, animal, and health service agencies, as well as schools and museums where they can do their volunteering. After the student has completed 15-20 hours, they then submit their reflection journal or paper about their volunteer experience to their instructor. It is this reflection that determines the credit students receive. "It isn't only doing the service, it's the learning experience," explained Brossman. Hence, the program's name is Service Learning.

Aside from the extra credit, personal fulfillment, the recognition when applying to schools, and the "real serious networking and exploration" Brossman claimed has helped students get hired, participants have had a 90 percent success rate of receiving an "A" or "B" grade in classes and 100 percent retention rate, meaning students are not dropping classes. Brossman believes the program really helps struggling students.

> **"This award is really due to the commitment of our faculty. Without them, we wouldn't have this award."**
> - Brossman

Valley was the first to have such a program in the Los Angeles Community College District. Since then, other colleges like L.A. City College and L.A. Harbor College have established similar programs.

As director of the Service Learning Program, Brossman thanks the counseling department as well as Valley President Sue Carleo and Vice President Sandy Mayo for their support. "This award is really due to the commitment of our faculty," he said. "Without them, we wouldn't have this award."

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

riage licenses, Rhode Island, N.Y. and Maryland recognize same-sex marriage.

While the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution has been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court to protect African-American civil rights since the 1950s, it was first cited as protective of homosexual civil rights in 1996. By constructing homosexuals as a legal entity in need of protection, the Supreme Court is making it easier for them to challenge discrimination and the 14th Amendment itself.

"I don't think it should be a constitutional right for gays to be married," commented prospective Valley student, Myra Lopez. She continued, "It's not a holy union under God. It was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Adam."

"I say let them do it, you only live once and should enjoy it while it lasts," said art major Norberto Sanchez. He continued, "God gave us free will. You can make your own choices and it's not for others to make them for you and we should let God deal with them, not us."

With the 2008 presidential election California's Proposition 8, or the California Marriage Protection Act, passed, which no longer allowed same-sex marriage in California. This was a shattering blow to many same-sex marriage proponents after the May 15, 2008 California Supreme court ruling to lift the ban on same-sex marriage. The law allowing same-sex marriage went into effect in June 2008, and before Proposition 8—a voter initiative to reinstate the ban on same-sex marriage—was passed in November 2008, over 1,800 California couples were wed. All same sex marriages performed within that time period are recognized as a valid marriage by the state of California. Though all same sex unions are given the same benefits as marriage under California law, they are not officially certified as marriage since Nov. 5, 2008.

"If gays can be equal to pay taxes and serve in the military, they should be able to get married. Marriage is a right, not a luxury or privilege," said gay rights activist, Mimi Amare. She went on to say, "It will take time to change the laws, everything takes time, but it will happen."

EARTHQUAKE

Continued from page 1

reports of damage.

Though the 4.4-recorded magnitude of the quake is small, its epicenter hits close to the Valley, not questioning whether students are ready to prepare, but if they know how.

"I really don't know what the protocol is for the school in case of an earthquake," liberal studies major Mark Acosta said. "On a campus like this, I don't know what they could do."

In case of major emergencies on campus, Valley has installed an emergency response plan that can be viewed at www.lavc.edu/erp/. The school and site detail check lists, online training programs, a campus emergency evacuation map, and more to help equip students with information vital in protecting themselves in case of emergency.

The importance of these references goes without saying, but the most important thing, according to Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo, is the students.

"Obviously our first priority is our students and the safety of our students. Basically I know that I'm here until everyone goes home … from that standpoint, I'm prepared."

THE VALLEY STAR STAFF & INFO

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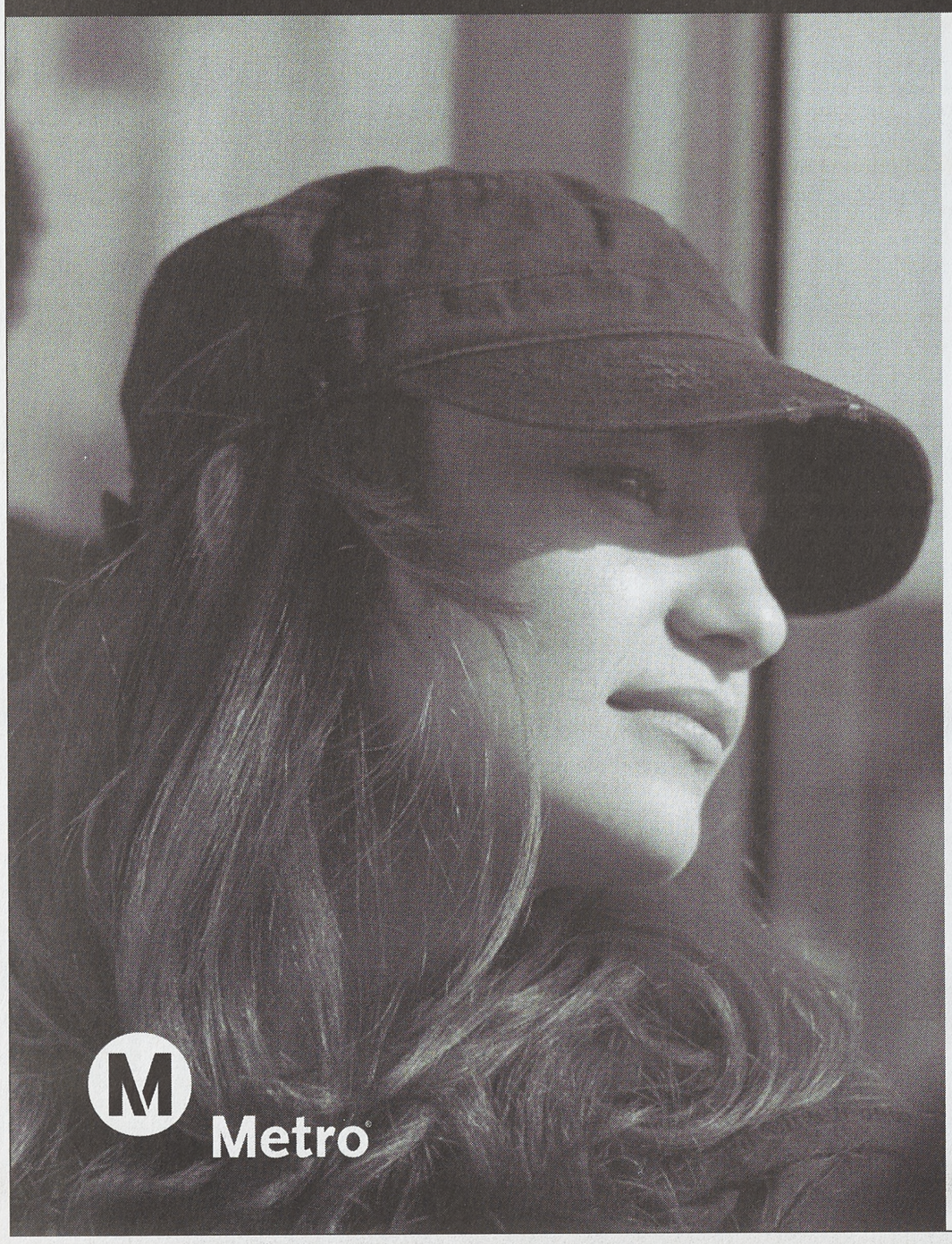
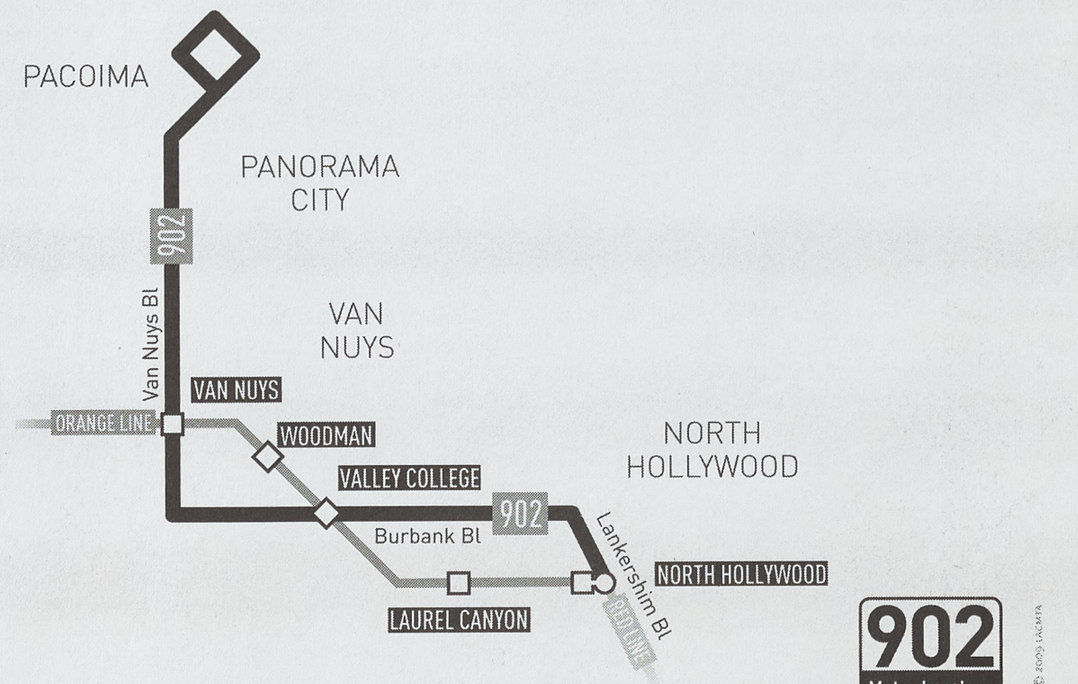


Orange Line Riders: Save Time with Line 902
Metro's new Line 902 saves time during your rush hour commute with direct service between Van Nuys Boulevard, LA Valley College and Metro Rail's North Hollywood Station. Line 902 also provides local service along Van Nuys Boulevard, giving you easy connections to:

> Pacoima Civic Center
> Van Nuys Civic Center
> Van Nuys Boulevard Shopping
> Van Nuys Amtrak/Metrolink Station
> And more!



Please check *metro.net* to plan your next trip.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

WINDY NICELY | VALLEY STAR

BORING - The cafeteria ambiance could use a little more than just an upgrade of food.

CAFÉ AU NO THANKS

The cafeteria at Valley College could use a little sprucing up.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

The walls, the floor, even the tables and chairs are all their own boring shade of white or grey, and in spite of its bland, un-tempting appearance, the food court at Valley College draws a mass of students around lunch time. It can't be the atmosphere that brings them in and it's hard to imagine that the popularity of the food court has anything to do with the quality of the dining experience.

I for one will never be caught waiting in line to buy a burger that looks like it would make a better paper weight than a lunch, or pizza that's been sitting under a heat lamp. The options our cafeteria offers don't exactly make a person salivate.

"I hate it," said student Katie Beech about the cafeteria. "You have to wait in line forever. I usually just go to the snack hut and get a Lunchable."

It isn't that the cafeteria is offensive or even off-putting. The staff does keep the court clean, and the Spanish music bumping out of the little boom box next to the soda fountain is pretty entertaining, but there are hospital cafeterias with more ambiance.

Santa Monica College has a Carl's Jr. and gourmet coffee stand. Pierce College has two cafeterias and an espresso bar. Our options are sandwiches from The Cutting Board that just make you wish you went to Subway, Asian food from Bamboo Shoot that looks scary, or a burger from The Flamery Grill that might be edible, but not good. Not that having a Starbucks on campus is topping anyone's list of priorities, but almost $3 for a cup of coffee burnt to perfection isn't exactly luring any students in to the food court.

"We have something called Flamery Grill?" asked student Stela Hernandez.

The selection of chips and candy admittedly comes in handy, for satisfying basic munchies, but it's nothing you can't take care of at a vending machine. From the poster-sized photos of academic life that hang on the wall, to the microwave that looks 50 years old, the experience is not unpleasant, but dull. How about a little more color like hanging student art pieces or at least throw some green and gold paint on the walls. Even the DMV could probably give some pointers in spicing up the "café" atmosphere.

The most interesting part of the food court is Monarch Den, for faculty and staff only. Whatever goes on behind that door can't be as intriguing as the brown paper taped over the window seems to suggest. Maybe they have a Starbucks back there. Or maybe it's just they can't stand looking at the cafeteria either.

Emergency Profits

California's ongoing struggle with budget deficits and lack of funding are taking away more Californians' sense of security.

SUSAN MASHEVICH
STAFF WRITER

As fee hikes override safety, the concept of public service has been thrown out the window. Expecting the unexpected is what many people strive to do. Unfortunately, tragedy does strike when it is least expected. Starting, March 3,2009, some California counties will make sure to profit from it.

Tracy County and Loma Linda County in California have added a $300 fee for residents dialing 9-1-1 and requesting paramedics, the fee is $400 for non-residents. The alternative would be a $48 per year membership.

According to CNN, a report published in The American Journal of Medicine says that medical bills alone account for 60 percent of bankruptcies in this country. If more counties in California adopt this practice of using fees to fill gaps in their budget it begs the question of where American tax dollars are going. "Adding insult to injury," a term being broadcast by some local news toward this fee, comes to mind.

Councilman Floyd Petersen said to The Press-Enterprise, "… imposing the fees would allow the city to collect from insurance companies that in the past have not reimbursed fire departments for the cost of paramedics treating their customers."

The effects of the budget deficit are still trickling down in California, affecting different and more direct areas of everyday life.

Loma Linda City Council, just east of Los Angeles, reportedly hopes to raise $262,000 from this new fee. Although fire trucks and armed police will come to your home to extinguish a fire or arrest a burglar at no cost to you, they can't find the government funding for an ambulance trip to the hospital and medical equipment, so the expenses get transferred directly to the people.

Sonia Nodal, PA-C, physician assistant from Valley College Health Center explains, "Of course adding $300 to a bill will make people think twice before calling, and as a consequence they will try to make a medical decision on their own that may even be fatal. But there does need to be some type of consequence too."

> **"As a consequence they will try to make a medical decision on their own that may even be fatal."**
> -Sonia Nodal

This public service was created because there are accidents and emergencies that have a direct effect on individuals and communities. Letting people know that there is help inspires a sense of security and hope. Assuming we are citizens of one of the wealthiest countries in the world we should be able to seek and receive care when it is necessary. Medical standards for Americans once again gets diminished as we have another reason for avoiding the doctor, even in a potentially life threatening situation.

THE SIMPLE TRUTH....

A LITTLE HELP IS TOO MUCH

In times of crisis, don't count on the Los Angeles City Council to help.

WRITER NAME

During this time of economic—and community—decline it seems our council members are more concerned with padding their perks than protecting the people they're paid to serve.

In a letter from City Controller Wendy Greuel to Mayor Villaraigosa and the Los Angeles City Council, she states that, despite cost- saving measures, she anticipates that the city will face a $199 million General Fund shortfall by June 30 – the end of the current fiscal year.

Let's take a look at what our city council is doing to save money.

As if it weren't bad enough that the council is considering raising the fee for being treated and transported by Los Angeles City Fire ambulances, now we have to worry that help might not come at all. Instead of sacrificing their own discretionary funds, the mayor and the City Council are considering closing down 10 basic life-support ambulances to decrease the budget deficit, according to an ABC News article.

Aside from their nearly $180,000 salaries, council members also benefit from a "street furniture" fund, which captures revenue generated by ads on city bus shelters.

Mr. Mayor, how about using some of this money to fund city services like keeping parks and libraries open, life-saving ambulance services, and keeping the real public service employees in their jobs?

Villaraigosa, whose priority is to increase the police force, accused city council members of "devastating public safety" when they voted against police hiring in lieu of saving 3,000 city-paid jobs.

So now that mom and dad have no job, and the kids don't have a park or a library to go to after getting out of a short day at school in an overstuffed classroom, we, the L.A. public can look forward to having our homes burglarized, higher prices at the grocery store, longer lines at the DMV, and more traffic tickets from harassing, donut-sucking cops.

Go ahead, Mr. Mayor, cut jobs, cut parks, cut libraries, cut all forms of education and recreation the public needs, and you really will need those cops to save you when an angry mob of buffoons storm your castle. But if you're bleeding, don't bother calling 9-1-1, your local ambulance service has been cut.

E-mail Jamie Norried at
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Send general comments to
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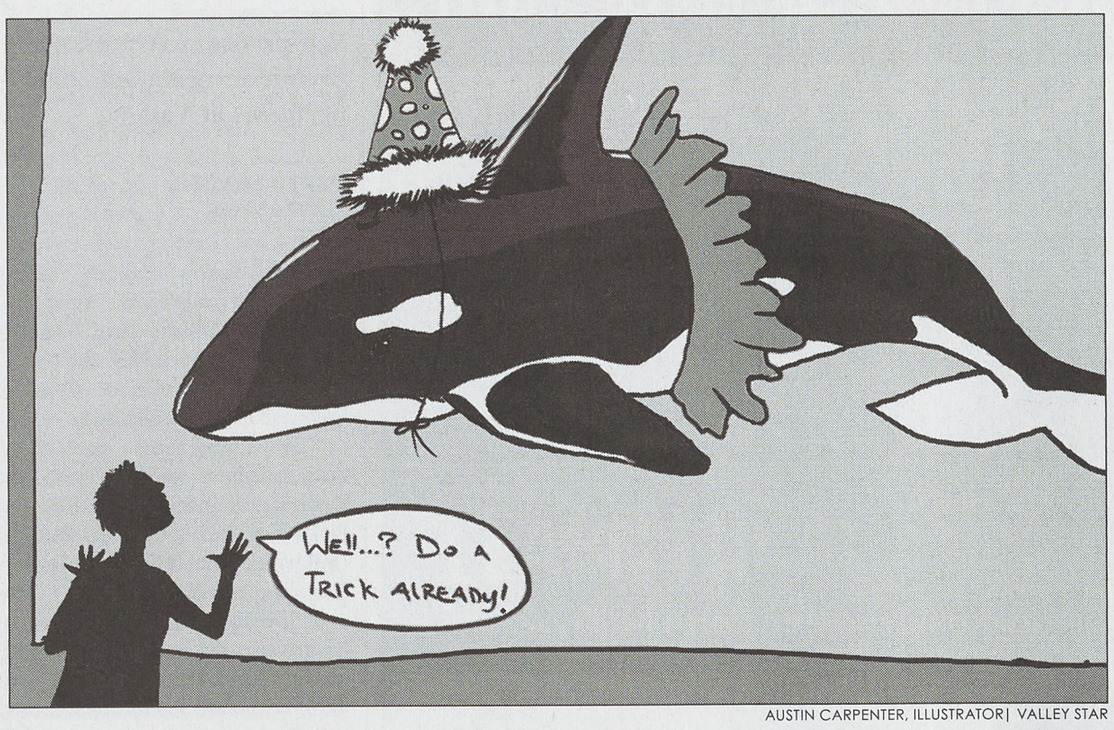
To Orca or Not to Orca: The Killer Whale Conundrum

While whale shows at SeaWorld may be fun for audiences, trainers put their lives on the line each time they enter the water.

AUSTIN CARPENTER



AUSTIN CARPENTER, ILLUSTRATOR| VALLEY STAR

While whale shows at SeaWorld may be fun for audiences, trainers put their lives on the line each time they enter the water.

Tourists from around the world flock to marine parks on a daily basis to watch the famous shows depicting Orca "Killer" whales. Flipping, diving, jumping, and splashing the thrilled audience—the whales do it all. These enormous creatures are kept in tanks for the duration of their lives; glorified circus performers for anyone who buys a ticket.

Periodically, an accident happens. A trainer will be killed or badly injured, sometimes during public events, by one of their prized Orcas. These tragedies are not due to unfamiliarity with the animals. Trainers build up intimate relationships with their whales for years, yet still, killer whales bizarrely turn on their longtime trainers, and attack.

Recently at SeaWorld Orlando, whale trainer, Dawn Brancheau, was killed by Tilikum, a 30-year-old killer whale. Brancheau was the park's most seasoned trainer.

"We recognized he was different," admitted Chuck Tompkins, head of Sea World animal training. Different indeed. Brancheau's death marked the third fatality associated with Tilikum.

Many people argue that whale shows, such as SeaWorld Orlando's "Believe," brings joy to the people who visit the park. They insist the shows also educate their audiences on whale behavior. The only recent lesson from this show seems to be that killer whales will kill, regardless of their length in captivity. An animal with the word "killer" in the name should not be used as a draw for cheap thrills. No one would attend a killer bee show.

There is a certain dangerous excitement in knowing an animal has instincts to eat you, especially one of such enormous proportions.

"What happened in Florida was a tragedy," said Amanda Fortino, a PETA representative. "Killer whales belong in the ocean ... not in what's basically an oversized bathtub."

Expecting these massive beasts to perform for our entertainment has proven to be unsafe as well as misleading. These animals are hunters. We can't forget what is programmed into their chromosomal make up. With as many as two-dozen attacks on humans since the 1970s, these "killer" shows are apparently too much of a risky business to continue. There surely must exist other opportunities, within their natural habitat, to teach the public about whales in a fun, exciting way—one that doesn't involve the largest oceanic mammal playfully drowning its trainer.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT IS GOOD OR BAD ABOUT VALLEY'S CAFETERIA?

"I think they have really good food, and I'm glad it's provided for us."

- KAYLA JAMES

"A lot of my friends go there when they want to study, and they like it."

- MEGAN KARAJIAN

"It's good. It's just here."

- JOANNA CARCAMO

"I wouldn't get what's on the rotational thing, the pizza. I think they have over priced drinks, and well they have a nice staff, thats it."

- ANTHONY PAREDES

"Prices are more expensive than in other places, so food isn't very accessible to students."

- ARLENE MEJORADO

PHOTOS BY WINDY NICELY | VALLEY STAR

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Feb. 25 - April 15
Monday - Thursday
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 - 9 p.m.
"No Laughing Matter: Art and Humor in Southern California (a Modest Sampling)"
Exhibition presented by the LAVC Art Gallery
(Art Gallery) FREE
Contact: (818) 778-5536

March
Wednesday, 17th
Save Our Education Town Hall Event
Sponsored by AFT 1521 & the Political Action Coalition
@ 1 - 2 p.m. (Monarch Hall)
Contact: lavcpac@yahoo.com or go to www.standup4cc.com

Thursday, 18th
"Careers in Healthcare" Career Speaker Workshop Series
Presented by the Career/Transfer Center
@ 1- 2 p.m. (Foreign Language 102)
Contact: Career/Transfer Center (818) 947-2646

Friday, 19th
"Greening Valley College" Town Hall Meeting
Sponsored by Professional Development, LAVC Sustainability Group, Valley College Accelerated Program (VCAP), the VTEA Grant and Job Training
@ 11:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. (Cafeteria Conference Room); RSVP Required
Contact: Roana Thornock (818) 947-2455

Monday, 22nd
ASU Finance Committee Meeting
@ 2 - 5 p.m. (Campus Center 104)
Contact: Associated Student Union (818) 778-5516

! THINK TRANSFER

March
Wednesday, 17th
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, 18th
CSU Los Angeles Rep.
@ 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Careers in Healthcare Workshop
@ 1 - 2:30 p.m. (FL 102)

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, 19th
CSU Northridge Free Bus Trip
@ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, 22nd
UC Santa Barbara Rep.
@ 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

How to Transfer Workshop
@ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

CSU Northridge Rep
@ 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, 23rd
UC Los Angeles Rep.
@ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

How to Transfer Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.

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VALLEY GETS FIXED

Fixed-gear bicycles have become a popular trend for students.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

Parking spaces at Valley College are limited at best and a parking pass can be expensive. With recent gas prices it is not cheap to drive either, prompting many to search for alternative means to get to school, and a bicycle is one of them. Students ride everything from beach cruisers to mountain bikes, and the hip favorite is a fixie or fixed-gear bike.

With fixed-gear bikes you cannot coast, as the pedals are locked in motion with the wheels. Perpetual motion is the signature of the fixie, and it is not just a technical difference. Riding one requires an almost Zen-like concentration, while complete abandon for normal safety standards may seem to outsiders to be an anarchic rebellion.

"When you ride a fixed- gear, you feel a closer communion with your bike and with the road," said Sheldon Brown on his cycling website, www.sheldenbrown.com

To most people, a 1970s 10-speed collecting dust at a yard sale is not worth the metal it's made of. To a kid in skinny jeans cuffed to the calf, scabs on the elbows worn proudly as a badge of honor, it may be more than just scrap metal. It is potential. Strip it down. Replace the component parts like hubs and wheels with Craigslist parts. Remove all brakes, kickstand, and anything else that might make riding safe, and it becomes something more than just a bike. It becomes transport out of the conventional.

Many students at Valley have jumped on the fixie trend. Look at a rack of bikes on campus and it is easy to pick out a fixed- gear by their sleek look and lack of gears or brakes.

There are some purists who aim to hang on to the fixed gear movement, guarding it closely as part of an identity. To the dismay of these few, the movement that started as a means of efficiency for bicycle couriers in New York has seeped into the mainstream.

"They sell them at Urban Outfitters," said cycling enthusiast Rob Groves when asked about fixies. "That makes it mainstream."

It remains to be seen whether the popularity of the movement will last, but it is doubtful that people will completely abandon gears and brakes. Whatever the case, Valley is a campus that is bike friendly in these not-so-wallet-friendly times.

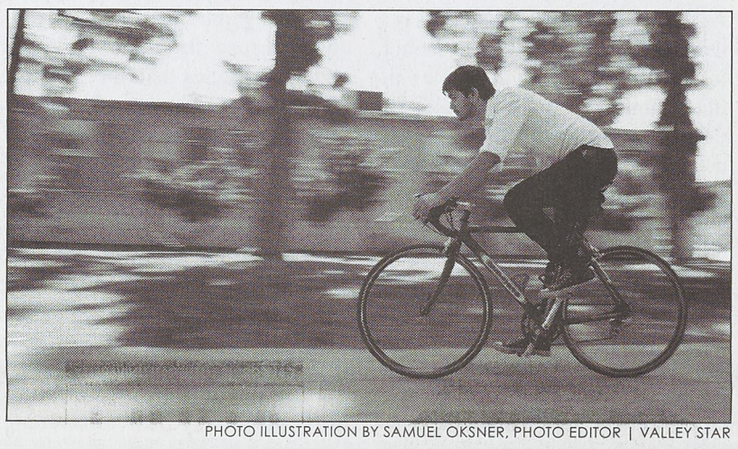

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELA BEACH | VALLEY STAR

Licensed Best Friend

Get your dog a license to live and the opportunity to say who they belong to in the event that they get lost.

KELLY DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to collect $3.6 million in fees, the Los Angeles City Council has ordered the Department of Animal Services to cross check databases with the Department of Water and Power to crack down on citizens harboring unlicensed dogs.

Eric Garcetti, city council president, contests that approximately two-thirds of all dogs in L.A. are unlicensed, which could be interesting to some owners who are unaware that they even need to license their pets to begin with.

"It's amazing how many people have called up since this news [of the crackdown] broke and said, 'Licensing? I didn't know my dog needed to be licensed,'" said Kathy Davis, interim general manager of the Department of Animal Services. Davis also said that she's shocked that people don't know and realize the benefits of licensing their pets.

According to Davis, the benefits of licensing your best friends have nothing to do with the fees that stand to be collected, but anything that gets the attention of people and motivates them to license their pets is a good thing. Of the fees, a portion goes to the spay/neuter fund, which provides sterilization to pets of those who financially cannot afford it. The other portion goes into the general fund, which the department operates on.

The mandatory licensing not only helps to ensure that all dogs are vaccinated for rabies, but it also provides an invaluable tool to help reunite lost dogs with their owners.

"Thousands of dogs with no identification come into shelters annually that are well-kept and obviously have a loving home," said Davis. "If only they were all licensed, we would be able to make that call to their owners and bring them home."

Valley College student, Lauren Grable, who wasn't sure if her late dog was licensed, said, "I see that on my neighbors' dogs, some of them have licenses on their collars."

Last month alone, the Department of Animal Services' statistics show that 521 dogs were euthanized at shelters while only 387 were reunited with their homes. At only $15 a year, the most important thing Valley students might want to do is make sure their best friends are licensed. The last thing a college student needs is the extra stress of worrying what might happen if their pets get lost and can't find their way back home. Fifteen dollars and proof of rabies vaccination isn't a lot when it comes to the piece of mind knowing that Fido's chances of being safely returned are much higher.

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FROM DOUBLE LATTES TO DOUBLE GRANDE

Self-proclaimed "America's premiere vocal/piano duo" performs at Valley.

DAVID MOTTE
STAFF WRITER

"The set was capped with a salute to our troops overseas... the only thing missing was fireworks."

The Valley College Music Department welcomed "America's premier vocal/piano duo," Double Grande, to perform the second installment of Free Concert Wednesdays last Wednesday.

Two grand pianos sat face to face, fulfilling their function, as Deborah Johnson and Wayland Pickard rocked the Music Recital Hall with upbeat renditions of timeless piano classics.

"We try to put on a unique theatrical experience of music and comedy," said Johnson. "We play a lot of corporate events and concert halls."

Both equally proficient musicians and composers, Johnson and Pickard met at a Disney Musical Theatre Workshop, drawn to each other by similar musical interests and ambitions. Convening at a Starbucks to discuss combining efforts, double lattes led to Double Grande, a two-person show consisting of two grand pianos and two grand voices. They recently recorded two popular albums which became 2009 Grammy Award contenders.

Wednesday afternoon's performance was kicked off with a quirky adaptation of Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," leading into Pickard's impersonation of Jerry Lee Lewis playing "Charlie Brown's Theme," hair-tossing solo and all.

In between paying tribute to Elton John with "Your Song," complete with gigantic sunglasses and their Grammy contending instrumental arrangement of "Green Sleeves," was the classical segment of the show which was predictably Beethoven-heavy.

"We're part of the Beethoven recovery package," joked Pickard in a Beethoven wig, before slamming into an eccentric disco version of the famous "9th Symphony," complete with apple-picking dance moves a la Travolta.

Double Grande's act is reminiscent of Marty and Elayne, who were immortalized by their appearance in the Miramax film "Swingers." Marty and Elayne is a two-person band who performs classic hits on a regular basis at the legendary Hollywood cocktail lounge, The Dresden Room.

"The concert was wonderful," said music professor Robert Chauls, who was in attendance. "I've known Wayland for years and he is very talented. The two make a great pair."

The set was capped with a patriotic salute to our troops overseas as the duo performed "God Bless America" with an American flag projected on the screen behind them. The only thing missing was fireworks.

You can catch a glimpse of these wacky performers on their website Doublegrandepianos.com and be sure to catch the next Free Concert Wednesdays performance, "Laberinto" - Labyrinthine compositions by Severin Behnen along with "straightish" jazz tunes March 17 at 1 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall.

Tiny Restaurant, Huge Flavors

Robina's Indian Cuisine brings authentic Indian flavors to North Hollywood.

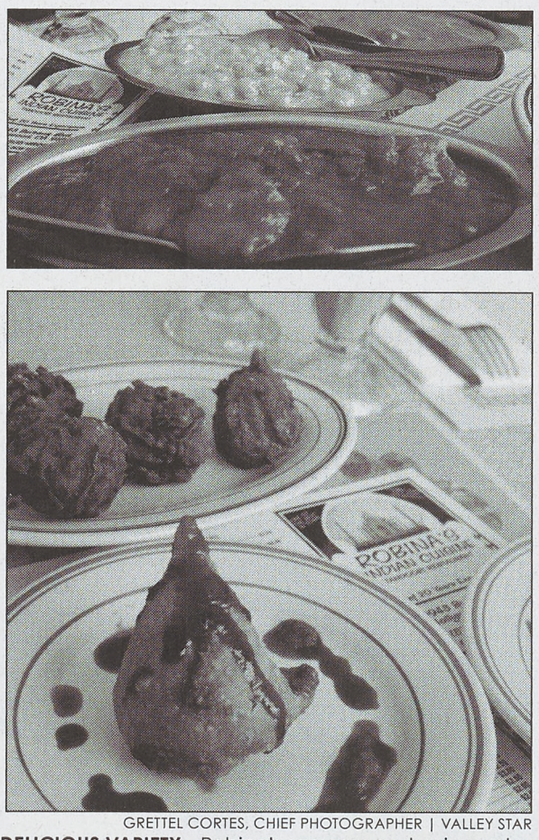
KATE HOLZHAUER
STAFF WRITER

Sitting down for a meal at Robina's Indian Cuisine is a lot like sitting down to a meal at a family's dining room table. Not only is the food served family style, with an abundance of food meant to be shared, but Robina's is a small, family owned and operated restaurant, and is, in fact, named for the owner's lively 3-year-old daughter, Robina.

While a lot of Americanized Indian food relies on exceptionally spicy peppers that burn the taste buds and leave the diner craving rice, the spices in Robina's curries are well balanced. Even in the hottest curry, it is as easy to taste the meat, the onions, and the delicate blend of spices that goes into building a good curry as it is to taste the hot peppers. The meats in all of Robina's meat curries are tender to the point of falling apart, but without the rich curry sauces, the meat would just be meat.

Whether soaked up in naan bread or spooned over rice, it is the curry sauces that truly make a meal at Robina's memorable. The traditional curry is complex without being too overpowering, allowing the meat and vegetables swimming in it to shine, and the more unusual korma sauce is smooth and creamy, with a delicate almond flavor that balances out the heat from other dishes. The real standout on the menu is the Tikka Masala. While it is delicious served with meat, the vegetarian version with lemony chickpeas swimming in the sauce is one of the tastiest dishes available.

The appetizers and side dishes on Robina's menu are not to be overlooked. While the traditional samosas are fine, the onion pakora, a deep fried onion ball sprinkled in a mouthwateringly salty seasoning is outstanding. Out of the restaurant's variety of very good traditional Indian flatbreads, the garlic naan, cooked to perfect crispiness, and the cheese naan—the Indian answer to pizza—are fantastic, and serve as a perfect foil to the subtle heat of the curries.



GRETTEL CORTES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
DELICIOUS VARIETY - Robina's samosas and onion pakoras provide a delicious introduction to an authentic Indian meal.

If the heat is still too overpowering, the mango lassi, a traditional yogurt based drink is cooling, and the almond-spiked rice pudding serves as a comforting end to a delicious and authentic Indian meal. So delicious, in fact, that 3-year old Robina was spotted blissfully licking a spoonful of the sweet, coconut rice pudding while bidding customers goodbye after a busy lunch service.

Not only is the food at Robina's Indian Cuisine delicious, it is very reasonably priced, with a daily $6.99 lunch special, and dinners large enough to also be lunch the next day for under $15 a person. While Robina's, a tiny storefront tucked next to Cobra Nightclub, where it's hard to find parking, the delicious food and friendly service are well worth the search.

ENJOY CLUB DAY

The ASU holds a Club Day every other week to encourage students to join fun and rewarding clubs.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Small crowds of inquiring minds gathered around Monarch Square Wednesday to attend Club Day, an event sponsored by Associated Student Union at Valley College.

Club Day is the perfect opportunity for students to explore the goals of clubs they might have an interest for.

"Students come to the ASU office often to get involved in clubs, but the best way to get a hold of club members is to attend Club Day," stated ASU advisor Elizabeth Ortiz.

> **"Students come to the ASU office often to get involved in clubs, but the best way to get a hold of club members is to attend Club Day."**
> - Elizabeth Ortiz

Clubs were asked to participate this week in a Black History Month theme.

Few clubs displayed presentation boards with heroic African-American icons throughout history.

Tau Alpha Epsilon was able to hold the spotlight for most of the day by holding a boxing match between club members.

Different strategies are used for recruiting new members, such as selling food, beverages, and giving more information about what their club involves.

Although they didn't have music, Edwin Martinez, member of Hip Hop Dynamics, was often found dancing.

"Our main goal in Hip Hop Dynamics is to change the view of hip-hop in people's eyes."

Martinez went on to explain this was the first time their club had attended the event and although they were not prepared, they were successful in recruiting more members.

Club Day is held every other week, usually on a Wednesday, and almost all of the clubs try to participate.

A few clubs are unable to attend Club Day because they do not have members to cover the tables on the selected day.

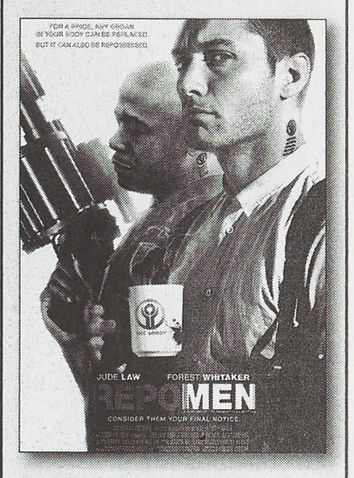
In order to accommodate to different schedules the ASU will hold two events on Tuesdays, April 13 and 27, rather than on Wednesday.

Some of the upcoming themes are international fine arts, garage sale, and Earth Day.

Albert Nieto, currently attending Valley, was able to speak to members of Eco Advocates, "I might check it out on Tuesday. We should all protect the environment and be pro-active."

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND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- TIMBALAND - *CARRY OUT (FEAT. JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE)*
- JASON DERULO - *IN MY HEAD*

CONCERTS & THEATRE

- *L.A. PHILHARMONIC: MAR. 17 WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL*
- *TEARS FOR FEARS: MAR. 21 THE WILTERN*
- *CATS: MAR. 17-21 PANTAGES THEATRE*
- *DREAM GIRLS: MAR. 17-21 AHMANSON THEATRE*
- *THROUGH THE NIGHT: MAR. 18-21 GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE*
- *THE CLEAN UP WOMAN: MAR. 17-21 WILSHIRE EBELL*
- *THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES: MAR. 17-21 MARKER TAPER FORUM*

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

MAKING THE CHANGE

Ricky Gervais' classic show from overseas is storming the gates in America.

JOSH SPENCE

Three weeks in and the gimmick is still funny. Adapted from a long-running series of podcasts, HBO's "The Ricky Gervais Show" transforms witty (and dry) British humor into something that is universally appealing.

The plot, if there is any, is for the viewer to be a fly on the wall and watch three men (Gervais, Stephen Merchant, and Karl Pilkington) have a meaningless conversation regarding politics, odd news articles, and monkeys.

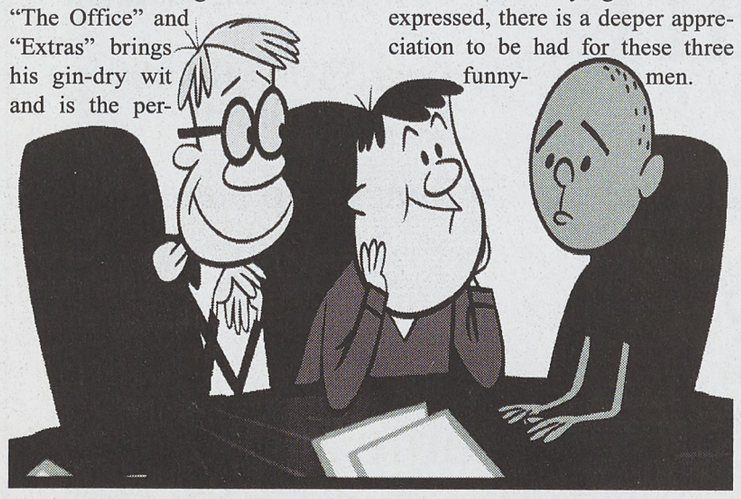
What actually transpires over the half-hour long program couldn't be described better than a guilty pleasure. The intellectual train wreck that occurs when Pilkington clashes with Gervais and Merchant on any topic is worth repeated viewing.

While Gervais' name is certainly the headliner and initial draw for the show, Merchant and Pilkington more often than not steal the spotlight and are arguably more vital to giving the show its funny bone. Merchant, the co-writer of both the English version of "The Office" and "Extras" brings his gin-dry wit and is the perfect guy to set up Pilkington's random feelings on everything from travel to sex shops.

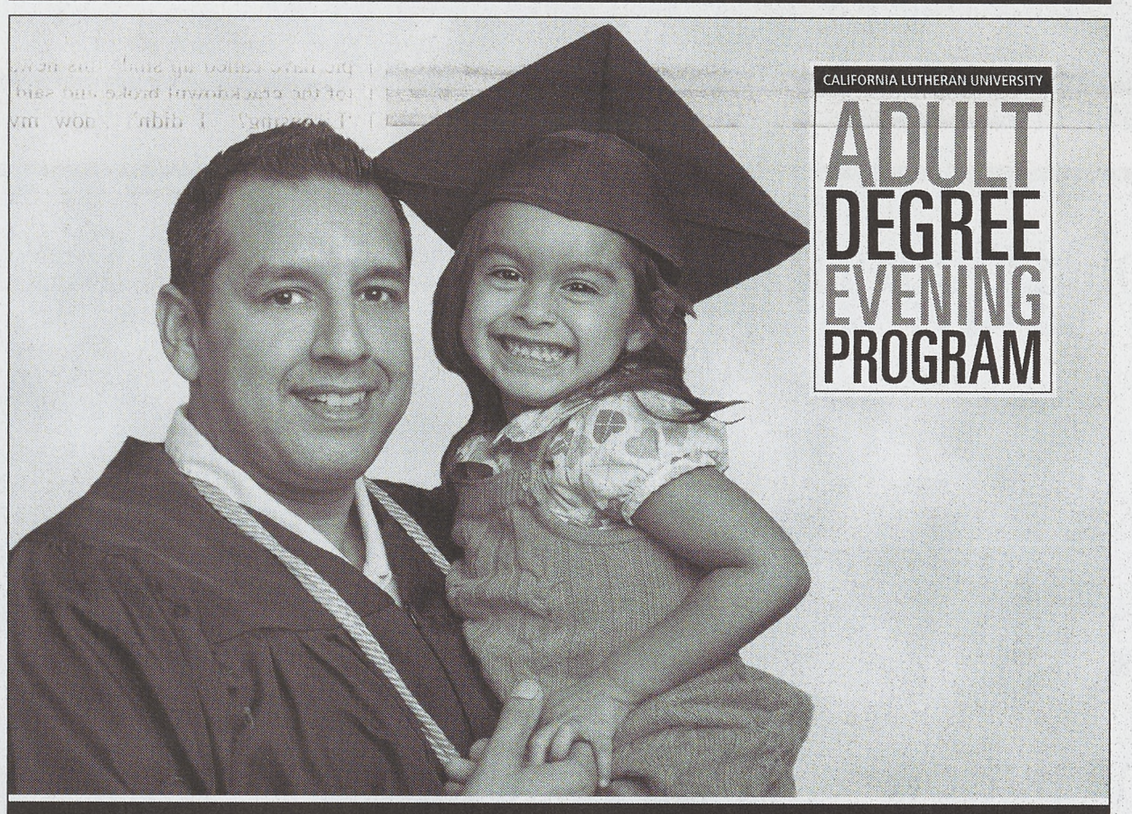
The show's genesis started in radio format on XFM in the United Kingdom with Pilkington initially as the show's producer in 2001. With Pilkington's odd and equally hilarious musings on the subjects debated, he was added as talent for the show in 2003. The show added a podcast feature in 2005 to rave reviews from fans and critics.

While the show may hold a Guinness World Record for "most downloaded podcast ever," the trio's witty takes on the daily proceedings can tend to be slightly verbose in sustained listening.

Therein lies the beauty of transitioning the show from purely audio to video. To get a visual description of Pilkington's rant of the first monkey in space during mid-riffage makes the material appear stream-of-conscious and genius simultaneously. Not to mention that giving the trio a Hanna-Barbera-esque facelift adds a tinge of Americana to a very English program. The transition to television overall makes the show immediately accessible to old friends of the podcast, uninitiated fans of Gervais, people who get lost amid heavy dialogue, and random channel changers. It not only adds pacing to the quicksilver speed of verbal jousting, but with a visual connection conveying the words expressed, there is a deeper appreciation to be had for these three funny- men.



E-mail Josh Spence at *co-editor@lavalleystar.com.*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*



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MONARCH SCHEDULES

Men's Baseball:
Thursday Mar. 18th
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Saturday Mar. 20th
@ Glendale 1 p.m.

Tuesday Mar. 23rd
vs. Glendale
@ Valley 2:30 p.m.

Softball:
Thursday Mar. 18th
@ Bakersfield 5 p.m.

Tuesday Mar. 23rd
vs. Santa Monica
@ Valley D/H 1/3 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
Friday Mar. 19th
@ Valley 2:30 p.m. WSC Quads #2.

Saturday Mar. 27th
@ Ventura 10 a.m. WSC Quads #3.

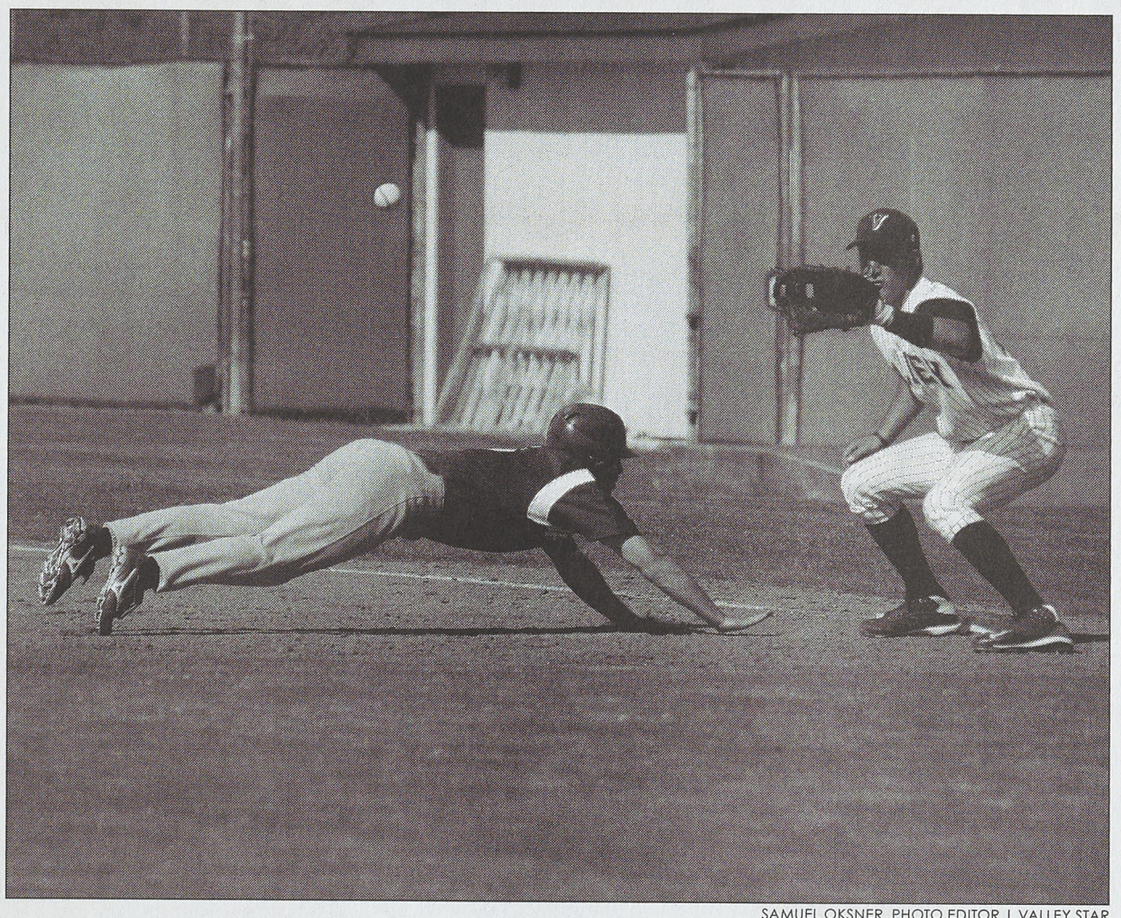
Track & Field
Friday Mar. 19th
@ Moorpark
1 p.m.
WSC South Meet

Friday Mar. 26th
@ Santa Barbara 9 a.m.
Santa Barbara Relays

MONARCHS BEAT THEMSELVES AGAINST PIERCE

In Tuesday's game against Pierce College, the Monarchs lose 5-4 in the 12th inning of the game.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR



SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
COMING UP SHORT - Zack Gilula makes a dive for first base as Valley's first baseman Ethan Koskela keeps an eye out for the ball. Pierce had an edge throughout the game by avoiding mistakes and staying sharp.

If the dry heat bouncing off of the wet sand and sharp pings echoing through the park weren't enough to signal that baseball season is in full swing, then former legendary Reds player Pete Rose, and former Mets player Greg Goosen-Brown sitting in the stands would.

The two joined the Valley crowd to watch Josh Goosen-Brown, Greg's nephew, in what would be a 5-4 loss for the Monarchs in extra innings against Pierce College.

"I think the team looks good," the former Met said. "It's early yet, but I think the coach has done a nice job. Like to see them up in this one [though]."

The game remained scoreless until the top of the third. Pierce (13-16) took a 1-0 lead over the Monarchs (2-13-1) on a line drive shot by third baseman Matt Moreno, scoring shortstop Mario Morales.

Missed opportunities and errors suffocated Valley early. Miscommunication between the left and center fielders caused a collision and dropped ball, giving Pierce a 2-0 lead at the top of four.

Good defense and consistent offense by Pierce left Valley struggling for runs. Hits to the gap and a triple by Pierce infielder David Whetstone, made the game a shutout heading into the bottom of five, 4-0.

"Defensively early on in the game we had miscommunication on a fly ball with the outfielders colliding. Then our middle infielder couldn't catch up the middle on a double-play ball, that led to a run," Valley Head Coach Dave Mallas said. "The guys didn't let that get them down, they battled back (and) offensively put themselves in a position to win it."

And a position they had. Entering the top of the ninth inning the Monarchs had come within one run of Pierce, making it 4-3. Reliever and Monarch third baseman Josh Goosen-Brown stepped in for Valley starting pitcher Chase Munoz in hopes of freezing the score. A fly-out, strike-out and run-down by Goosen-Brown at first base did just that.

Despite a mental error in the bottom of the ninth by Monarch base runners, a base hit by Valley outfielder Oscar Soriano scored a run, tying the game at four. The game stayed at four until the top of the 12th inning. A line-drive by Pierce Matt Plodenic scored on Whetstone, making it 5-4 in favor of the Brahmas. A three and out at the bottom of 12 crushed the Monarchs hopes at victory giving Pierce the win.

"We had a golden opportunity in the tenth inning, bases loaded no one out (and) we didn't score, and eleventh inning we had first and third with one out and ran into a double play," Mallas said. "Your not going to get many wins when you do that."

ANALYZE THIS

BOXING BEFORE BEDTIME

Despite an increase in Pay-Per-View sales for boxing, UFC is still on a path to dominance in the fight-world.

LUCAS THOMPSON

They packed the newly built Dallas Cowboys stadium. The stage set, lights shining, and 50,994 fans chanting, Manny Pacquiao and Joshua Clottey left the record-breaking crowd wishing it were football season.

With respect to boxing, which has seen an increase in Pay-Per-View sales over the past few years, I for one am getting sick and tired of watching two incredible athletes dance around a ring for 12-rounds. Sorry to say, but I already received my full dosage of this with the ice skating competitions during the winter Olympics.

The largest PPV sales boxing has ever grossed was the 2007 fight between the "golden boy" Oscar De La Hoya and Floyd Mayweather Jr. The fight received 2.4 million buys, which is just a little over the number two Lewis-Tyson fight that brought in 1.98 million buys. These numbers by no means are shabby, but boxing is missing two elements, consistency and improvement.

"The way that we've built this business, we've got guys that make millions of dollars, guys that make hundreds of thousands of dollars, guys that make you know 60, 70, 80 thousand dollars three times a year, the money is spread out between all the fighters, not just a handful of guys at the top," owner of the UFC, Dana White, said.

For 2009 the UFC reported 7,970,000 PPV buys. Three out of the top five most purchased events in the calendar year were UFC fights; the other two were boxing matches. UFC 100 had 1.5 million PPV purchases, which featured Brock Lesnar vs. Frank Mir. By the way, Lesnar is a former wrestler of the WWE. Coming in at number two was the Pacquiao-Cotto fight at 1.25 million buys.

Every fight, which had at least one title fight on the card for the UFC, did at least 500,000 in PPV sales. Cards that hosted two champions sold at least 800,000. UFC 100 was not only the biggest for the year but also the biggest in UFC history. Time after time Dana White and the UFC have created what is the drama of the "barbaric" street fighting UFC. While UFC never disappoints to find the two biggest superstars to hop in the octagon, boxing can't even get their two biggest stars to agree on drug testing.

Talks of a fight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather were quickly shot down after disagreements regarding the drug testing procedures led to the fight being indefinitely postponed. The hypothetical match was estimated to have surpassed the record 2.4 million PPV buys set in 2007.

"You ask me, I think they're both scared of each other," Dunwell said. "It should happen. They could make so much money, and it's good for boxing. ... That's why boxing is going down. ... MMA is coming up," boxer Simeon Dunwell (11-1, 3 KO).

In conclusion, boxing will continue to sabotage itself, and the UFC will continue on its ever-increasing path to complete superiority in PPV sales, drama, and actual fighting.

E-mail Lucas Thompson at
l.thompson@lavalleystar.com
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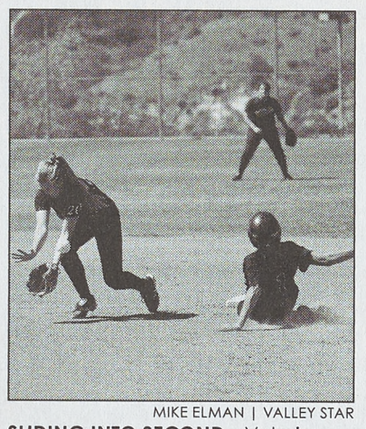
A BIT OF MERCY FOR THE MONARCHS

Valley softball loses 10-0 against College of the Canyons last Friday.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER



MIKE ELMAN | VALLEY STAR
SLIDING INTO SECOND - Valerie Prendiz slides into second base during Tuesday's softball game against Glendale City College.

Most college softball games last for seven innings, unless the Monarchs are facing the College of the Canyons Cougars, then at the fifth inning there is an audible cry for mercy.

Valley lost to College of the Canyons 10-0 and ended the game after five short innings. A play commonly called the 'mercy rule.'

"You will persevere," shouted Valley Coach Frankie Garcia to her players as she forced them to run between innings. "You must persevere."

The game started off well for COC and though Valley played hard and had several hits, the Monarchs couldn't catch a break. At the end of the second, the Cougars had 4-0 lead, which was fed with loud cheers and a growing confidence that carried them for the remainder of the game.

The green and white uniforms of Valley and the blue and gold uniforms of COC were in stark contrast to each other, a contrast which matched the facial expressions given from Valley Head Coach Frankie Garcia and COC Head Coach John Wissmath.

At the top of the third inning Valley starting pitcher Valerie Prendiz threw a variety of pitches at the Cougar batters, but to no avail, the Cougars scored yet again. As the Cougar chants continued to take over the game, Valley would suffer yet another three-and-out.

At the top of the fourth inning, outfielder Stacy Razo made several spectacular catches, but later with bases fully loaded, dropped a ball, allowing COC to score three more runs. The cougars led 8-0. At the bottom of the fourth, the Monarchs had Valerie Prendiz on base, but were struck out yet again by Cougar pitcher Ashley Imperial.

"This is part of the game, we will recover and we will keep getting better," said Coach Garcia.

The game ended with the Cougars (8-7) sweeping Valley 10-0. The Monarchs (11-7-1) walked onto the field and showed the customary respect for the opposing team, and then walked away, somber and deflated. The Monarchs will face COC again April 6 and by then, according to some of the players, it may be a very different game.

"We're going to be different next time we face them," said Monarch catcher Madison Urena. "We're gonna kick their butts next time we see them."

EARTHQUAKES PART I OF III

Drop, Cover and Hold On, Valley College

Campus quakes have students shaken and buildings stirred.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Natural disasters occur when we least expect it, creating a sea of catastrophe as unexpected victims deal with the tragedy. But when it happens on campus it's the last thing on our minds while we're trying to get through the day.

It's hard to remember earthquake drills since they are scarcely taught. Even to this day most would probably hesitate if an earthquake would occur while we are in class. While college campuses have experienced many earthquakes, the damages they leave have an affect as they leave their mark in parking areas and buildings.

"I hope I never have to be around campus when an earthquake happens, it would be a horrible situation to be stuck in," said Valley College student Richard Olivas.

Here's why:

1984 – a 6.2 earthquake hit Morgan Hill, Calif. shaking the West Valley College campus. The college gym roof was so weak that it was severely damaged, threatening the safety of students. At that time, the flexible building did not meet the standards used in many states.

Jan. 17, 1994 – the Northridge earthquake resulted in 61 deaths and $15 billion in damages. California State University, Northridge was one of the campuses that faced major destruction, campus buildings were damaged and its parking structure had collapsed. Because the magnitude of the quake was so close to the campus, a lot of the buildings had damages that needed a great amount of time to repair.

July 30, 2008 – the Chino Hills area had an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4. Local campuses were affected by this earthquake due to the minor damages it had on the buildings for each campus. Cal State Fullerton was closed on that same day due to reports about cracks in several buildings on campus. Citrus and Mt. San Antonio College cancelled classes that same day while students were evacuated due to the damages each campus faced.

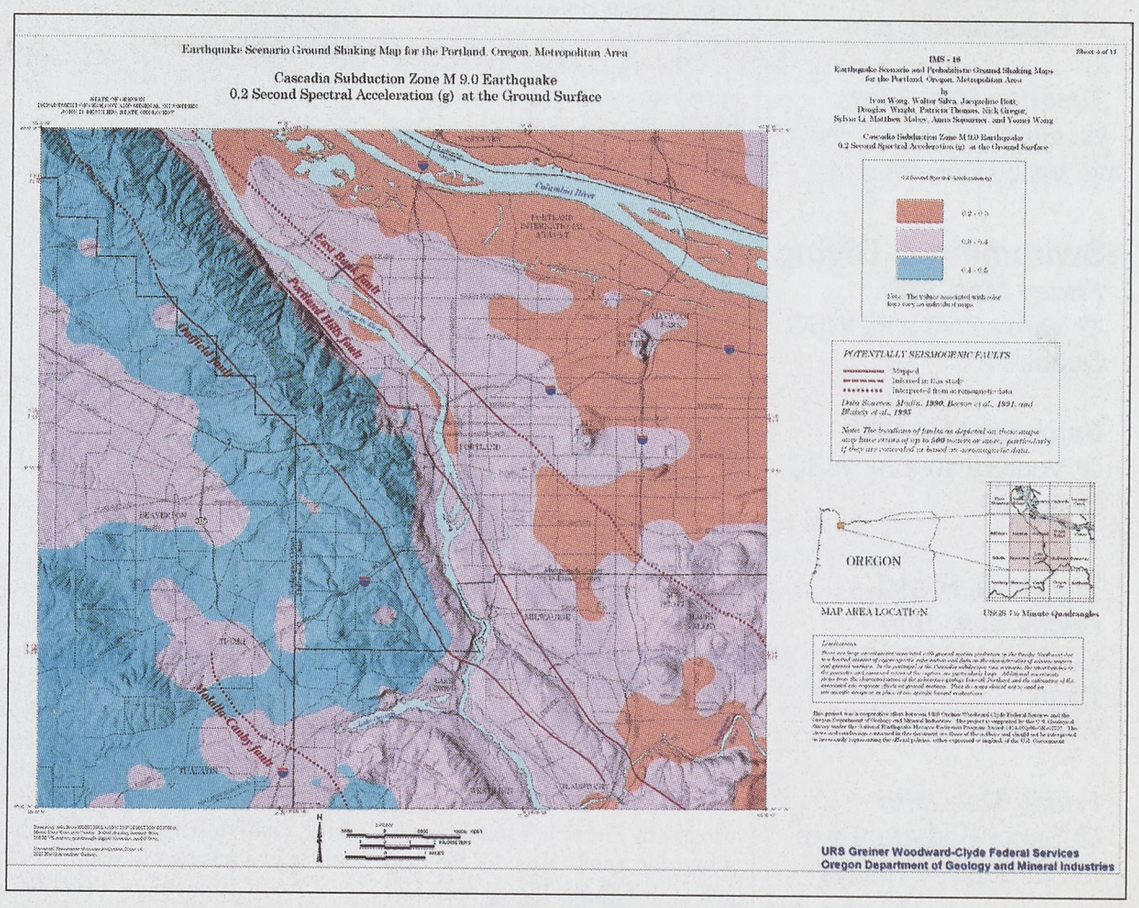
This past winter break, San Diego College students had a rough wake-up call as they experienced a 5.8 earthquake. No injuries or damages were reported, just a few shakes in buildings and homes, according to the California College News Team.

California faces an earthquake every now and then. Since some of us may be unaware of the serious damages they have, there are a lot of resources online that are useful. The Southern California Earthquake Data Center has a lot of information on recent earthquakes and provides a lot of resources on general earthquake questions you might have. Also a useful map on the Web site shows when activity goes on in any area of California, including where it happened and the size of the quake. If you are interested in earthquake history in California you can visit www.data.scec.org/index.html for more information.

THE WAITING GAME

The Pacific Northwest fault, which has been dormant for nearly 300 years, is receiving major attention after recent events in Chile.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR


Earthquake Scenario Ground Shaking Map for the Portland, Oregon, Metropolitan Area
Cascadia Subduction Zone M 9.0 Earthquake
0.2 Second Spectral Acceleration (g) at the Ground Surface
IMS - 16
Earthquake Scenario and Probabilistic Ground Shaking Maps for the Portland, Oregon, Metropolitan Area
Ivan Wong, Walter Silva, Jacqueline Bott, Douglas Wright, Patricia Thomas, Nick Gregor, Sylvia Li, Matthew Moley, Anna Sojourner, and Yomei Wong
Cascadia Subduction Zone M 9.0 Earthquake
0.2 Second Spectral Acceleration (g) at the Ground Surface
0.2 - 0.3
0.3 - 0.4
0.4 - 0.5
POTENTIALLY SEISMOGENIC FAULTS
Mapped
Inferred in this study
Interpreted from aeromagnetic data
Data Sources: Madin, 1990, Beeson et al., 1991, and Blakely et al., 1995
Columbia River
East Bank Fault
Portland Hills Fault
Oatfield Fault
Molalla Canby Fault
PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
BEAVERTON
TUALATIN
LAKE OSWEGO
OREGON
MAP AREA LOCATION
USGS 7½ Minute Quadrangles
URS Greiner Woodward-Clyde Federal Services
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Earthquakes like the 1994 Northridge magnitude of 6.7 would be nothing more than an aftershock. Its energy is capable of producing quakes stronger than that of the 8.8 earthquake that devastated Chile. It is called the Pacific Northwest Fault and for scientists, it's not a question of will it will erupt, but when.

Located just 50 miles off the coast, the Pacific Northwest Fault, or Cascadia Fault, stretches 680 miles from British Columbia down to northern California. According to the Associated Press, the fault resembles the activity of the one that erupted off the shores of Chile, and in turn could cause an earthquake that is identical, if not bigger, in seismic strength.

In a recent interview with NewsOk.com, Brian Atwater, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Washington said, "[The Pacific Northwest] has a long geological history of doing exactly what happened in Chile. It's not a matter of if, but when the next one will happen."

The shaking in Chile lasted two minutes, destroying or badly damaging 500,000 homes, according to the Associated Press. The fault, according to scientists, is part of several seismic hotspots around the world that shift, causing mountain ranges, volcanos, and ocean trenches to form. Unfortunately these so-called "subduction zones" are also known to cause mega quakes or "great" quakes (anything over an 8.0).

In reference to studies done by the U.S Geological Survey, it states that for every "0.1" increase in magnitude, for instance 6.7 to 6.8, the associated seismic energy increases by about 32 times. This means a quake similar to or greater than that of Chile would be roughly 736 times more powerful than the catastrophic 1994 Northridge quake.

Studies by Chris Goldfinger of the Active Tectonics and Seafloor Mapping Laboratory at Oregon State show that there is an 80 percent chance that the section of the fault, located off the coast of southern Oregon and northern California, would erupt in the next 50 years, producing a mega quake. Chances are lower for the northern end, including Washington state and Vancouver—about 27 percent.

According to the U.S Geological Survey, each year there are 19.5 quakes around the globe that are 7.0 or greater. Efforts have and will continue to be put in motion to prepare the pacific northwest for the inevitable catastrophe of what is a "great" quake. The Cascadia fault has been dormant for nearly 300 years, but only time will tell if it will make it to 301.

Join me in the next issue to find out exactly what the northwestern part of our nation is doing to prepare for the super quake.

ALL ABOARD THE DISASTER BANDWAGON

Celebrity donations to disaster areas might be more publicity stunt than charity.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

As if it weren't enough to worry about terrorist attacks and war, now we have to worry about being crushed when buildings collapse from an earthquake, or a tsunami pummeling shorelines and washing people out to sea. Disasters seem to be striking around the world, but thankfully we have nothing to fear because Hollywood celebrities are coming to our rescue.

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and Sean Penn have all spoken publicly about their efforts to aid the disaster victims in Haiti, as well as in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. There is something unsettling about their willingness to give interviews about their acts of charity. It does feel at times as though the interviews do more to bolster their public image than to raise awareness, but Penn for one has spoken out about such criticism of his own aid efforts.

"I guess I've been so away from it all so I haven't had an awful lot of time to pay attention to them," Penn was quoted by New Zealand City News, speaking about his critics. "You know, do I hope that those people die screaming of rectal cancer? Yeah. You know, but I'm not going to spend a lot of energy on it."

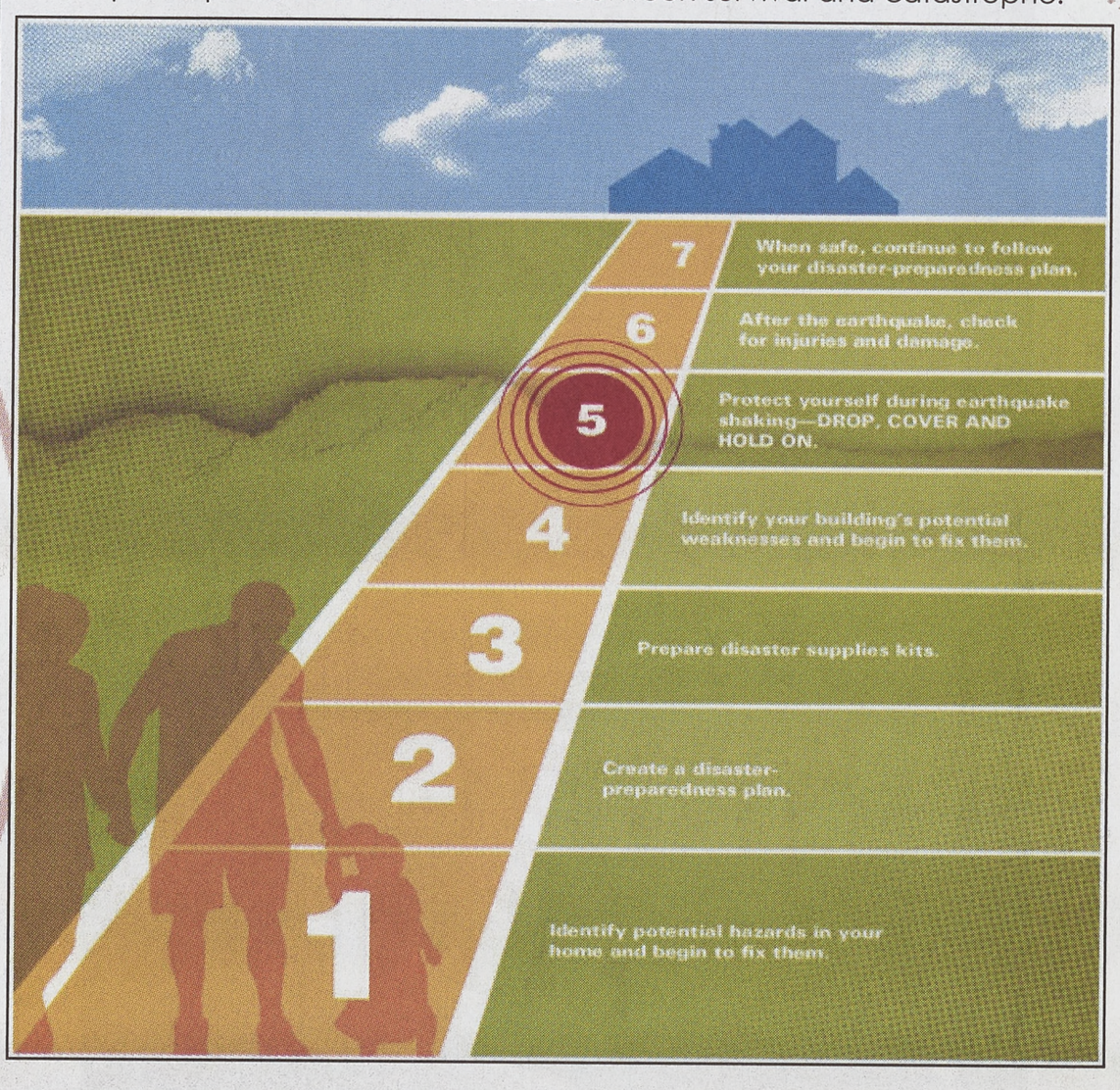
He makes a decent point. Hollywood celebrities obviously bring a certain amount of rallying power to the table and if their efforts supply the people of disaster-stricken countries with relief, either directly or in directly, then good has been done. But when Fergie shows up in the "We Are the World 25 for Haiti" video, it is hard to escape the image of a slick public relations representative rubbing his palms together behind the scenes with dollar signs in his eyes.

There is a certain feeling that people are capitalizing on others' misfortune. There hasn't been nearly as much media buzz about Chile's disaster that killed almost 800 people compared with the Haitian quake that took the lives of over 200,000 people, according to reports. In the three days after the earthquake in Haiti, Americans reportedly raised $97 million, compared to $250,000 in the three days following the Chilean disaster. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie reportedly donated $1 million to help the victims in Haiti, and a slew of other celebrities publicly lent their support. Yet the only thing a Google search produces about celebrity donations to Chile, other than from Chilean celebrities, is Ricky Gervais appealing to his fans on his blog to donate to the Red Cross. Maybe the lack of support is because the damage wasn't as extensive in Chile, or maybe it's because it wasn't as media friendly.

However, looking at the issue from the San Fernando Valley, it is easy to criticize the intentions of Angelina Jolie, but from the position of someone living in Haiti, the intentions behind donations probably don't matter a whole lot. A million dollar donation is a million dollar donation, good PR or not.

Know the Steps

The first moments after an earthquake are important and following these simple steps can be the difference between survival and catastrophe.


7
When safe, continue to follow your disaster-preparedness plan.
6
After the earthquake, check for injuries and damage.
5
Protect yourself during earthquake shaking—DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON.
4
Identify your building's potential weaknesses and begin to fix them.
3
Prepare disaster supplies kits.
2
Create a disaster-preparedness plan.
1
Identify potential hazards in your home and begin to fix them.